

Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee Minutes December 22, 2009

Attendance: John Bamberger, Richard Fein, Karen Kowles, Peter Lillya, Andrew Melnechuk, Fran VanTreese, Chris Slemp, Glenn Barrington (UMass Transit), Lynn Grabowski, (Mass Bike), Guilford Mooring (Amherst Public Works) Marga Hutcheson (guest)

Glenn Barrington distributed the latest ridership numbers. They show a continuing increase in route 32 ridership.

Afternoon runs on route 32 are chronically late by 10 minutes and more. The principal cause is traffic in Amherst center and at Atkins corner. The Committee voted 6 yes, 0 no to support a UMass Transit plan to add 10 minutes to the time for a complete circuit to the formal schedule for afternoon runs on full-service weekdays effective 19 January 2010.

In response to a question from the Committee Glenn provided the following UMass Transit data.

Cost of a bus – about \$325,000

Annual full-time staff salaries - \$730,000 plus \$50,000 overtime

Fuel use in FY 2009 – 202,000 gal.

Minutes for the meeting of 17 Nov were approved: 5 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain.

Fran vanTreese reminded Committee members that they must pass the online State conflict of interest test.

Committee updates:

Norwottuck Rail Trail – Discussion of repaving and widening continue. There were no bids to plow sections of the trail this winter. Guilford Mooring said the Town of Amherst Public Works would be interested in submitting a bid but hadn't been contacted.

Public works – Work by the Town has begun on the Atkins corner reconstruction project. The state portion will go out to bid in Feb or March 2010. West St. (Rte 116) will be resurfaced in summer 2010 from Snell St. south to the entrance to Hampshire College. The section at Pomeroy Corner will be skipped owing to its planned reconstruction.

Lynn Grabowski raised the question of pedestrian safety at crosswalks and how to make crosswalks more visible to motorists. This is a concern of the Committee and discussion ensued. In the absence of a compelling solution, no action was taken.

All assembled thanked Lynn for the delicious Christmas cookies she brought.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Lillya, secretary